



MONTHLY BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

ODHH LAUNCHES MONTHLY BULLETIN

Welcome to the first edition of the ODHH Monthly Bulletin!

ODHH serves as an information clearinghouse on issues related to the deaf and hard of hearing communities in Maryland. The publication of a monthly newsletter will facilitate the exchange of information between the deaf and hard of hearing communities, government departments and agencies, and public and private entities providing services in Maryland.

Julie Anne Schafer, Communications and Special Projects Coordinator for

ODHH, will edit the Monthly Bulletin.

The Bulletin will serve several purposes, the chief purpose being to provide stakeholders, service providers, policy makers, and other interested parties with updates and information related to ODHH programs and projects.

Through the Bulletin, ODHH will also strive to bring to light stories of interest related to deaf and hard of hearing issues in Maryland.

Finally, the newsletter will provide important

announcements about upcoming events and meetings related to ODHH programs and projects.

As always, ODHH welcomes your input and feedback. If you have any questions or comments concerning the newsletter, or if you have suggestions for articles, please contact Julie at: jschafer@gov.state.md.us. You may also submit articles and announcements to be published in the Monthly Bulletin. Look for the Bulletin to be published in the second week of each month.

ODHH PROGRAMS

- *Awareness Training and Technical Assistance*
- *Constituent Services*
- *Community Outreach and Education*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

REMEMBERING HOWARD LEONARD 2

INNER HARBOR DEAF CENTER 2

CHANGES AT ODHH 3

MDAD/PCRID CONFERENCE 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS 4

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 4

MEET THE ODHH STAFF: GALLAUDET INTERN

Each year, ODHH accepts interns from local Colleges and Universities in order to enhance students' learning experiences and to provide support for our small office. Generally, we accept an intern for two semesters from the Gallaudet Graduate Social Work program. Charleen Sculley is the Social Work graduate student from Gallaudet University interning at ODHH this year.

Originally from Jacksonville, Illinois, Charleen was born deaf and raised in an Oral program prior to entering the Deaf Institution at Illinois. She graduated in 1978. Initially, she did not pursue a college education and instead focused on raising her family. Once her children were grown,

(cont. on page 4)

ODHH REMEMBERS J. HOWARD LEONARD: OCTOBER 20, 1952 – AUGUST 3, 2007

An original member of the Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and former advisory Council Chair, J. Howard Leonard is remembered for his tireless passion for improving and preserving the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing people. As the eldest child born to deaf parents on Maryland's Eastern Shore, he perfected the fine art of advocacy literally from childhood. Fluent in American Sign Language and English, Howard helped found the Deaf Independent Living Association (DILA). Howard first served as a Board member until he later became its Executive Director, a position he held for fifteen years. He was also instrumental in creating the Interpreting Referral Service of the Eastern Shore, the first and only interpreting service operating in the area.

The Maryland deaf community is the beneficiary of the many commissions, committees, boards and councils that he served on for more than 25 years as he worked to "level the playing field". In the 1980's he fought for and achieved a public mental health system that would provide culturally competent mental health professionals to work with deaf and hard of hearing people. At the time of his death he was the leader and impetus behind the subcommittee and workgroups of the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to rebuild the programs and services to the deaf that had collapsed a few years ago as the result of a state policy change.

Two and half years ago, believing that his expertise could be best used on a state level, he joined the Division of Rehabilitation Services as the Staff Specialist for the Deaf. While his time there was short, his impact will be felt for many years to come.

On November 8, 2007, the Maryland Rehabilitation Association (MRA) recognized Howard as the great humanitarian he was when they posthumously conferred to him the 2007 Humanitarian Award. His fiancée, Laurie Yaffe, accepted the award during the 2007 DORS/MRA Conference in Baltimore.



Laurie Yaffe accepted the MRA 2007 Humanitarian of the Year Award on Howard's behalf.

INNER HARBOR DEAF CENTER OPENS

The red door lets you know you've found it. The Inner Harbor Deaf Center (IHDC) officially opened on October 1, 2007. Located at 104 Water Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, the IHDC serves several purposes. Deaf and hard of hearing people can register as "users" and take advantage of free video phone services, provided by Viable, Inc. The space also serves as a meeting space for people to come and socialize.

If you would like to visit the IHDC, their hours of operation are: Mon-Fri,



10 AM to 7PM. For more information about the IHDC, please contact Jeanne Scanlon, Center Manager, at jeanne.2006@verizon.net.

The IHDC will be hosting a Grand Opening Celebration on Friday, November 16 at 2 PM. Refreshments will be served.

Newly hired ODHH Staff Laura Quinn (Administrative Assistant) and Julie Anne Schafer (Communications and Special Projects Coordinator) at the door of the Inner Harbor Deaf Center.

CHANGE AT ODHH

After five years of service to the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Director Yvonne M. Dunkle resigned to pursue other endeavors. Ms. Dunkle was the first Director of the Office, which was established through enabling legislation in 2001. The staff members at ODHH wish Ms. Dunkle the best of luck in the future.

The Governor has not yet appointed a successor to Director Dunkle, who left ODHH on October 26, 2007. In the interim period between her departure and the appointment of a new director, Denise Gagnon Perdue, the Assistant Director of ODHH, will be serving as the Interim Director.

An interview panel will be convening and will choose from the pool of applicants a person to recommend to the Governor. Representatives from the Deaf and Hard

of Hearing community and the Governor's Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be included on the interview panel.

For more information about applying for the position of Director, please follow: [Director, Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#).

This month, ODHH welcomes two new staff members. Julie Anne Schafer, former Senior Staff Assistant to the Office, was hired as ODHH's Communications and Special Projects Coordinator and Laura Quinn, a senior at Towson University, was hired as the Administrative Assistant to the Office. Stay tuned to the Monthly Bulletin for bios on these two new staff members.

MDAD/PCRID TO HOST FIRST EVER JOINT CONFERENCE

The Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing extends its congratulations to both the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) and the Potomac Chapter Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID) for collaboration on their first ever joint conference. The conference will be held at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville from November 29, 2007 through December 2, 2007. The three-day conference includes both workshops and social events.

The conference is a great opportunity for coalition-building. It is also a time for two passionate and dedicated groups of people to come together and work toward common goals. ODHH looks forward to being a part of this momentous event, both as participants and as exhibitors.

When held independently in the past, both conferences were exceptional. However, the theme for the Conference, "Together Stronger," engenders a sense of com-

Together. Stronger.



munity and solidarity never before seen in Maryland. ODHH commends MDAD and PCRID for taking this step to joining the interpreter and deaf communities in order to foster progress for deaf and hard of hearing people in Maryland. The 2007 conference will surely exemplify that together, we are stronger.

For more information about registering for the conference, please visit:

PCRID: <http://www.pcrid.org/conference.cfm>

-or-

MDAD: <http://www.mdadconference.org/index.html>

And don't forget to stop by the ODHH exhibit booth Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM and Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

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MEET THE ODHH STAFF: GALLAUDET INTERN

(cont. from page 1)

Charleen realized that in order to further advance her career, she needed to pursue higher education. As a result, Charleen earned a Bachelor's of Social Work in May 2007 from Gallaudet University.



As a graduate student at Gallaudet, Charleen is concentrating her studies in administration, lobbying, policy-making and community activism. Charleen will finish her master's degree in May of 2009 and plans to move back to Illinois. She

plans to work with the grassroots Midwest Deaf community and looks forward to spending more time with her family. She is the proud grandmother of five grandchildren.

You can contact Charleen by emailing her at :
csculley@gov.state.md.us.

Charleen represents ODHH at the monthly Brown Bag Lunch for Professionals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2007

HLAA Meeting—Greater Baltimore Chapter
Thurs, November 15, 7-8:30 PM -and-
Tues, November 20, 10:30 AM - 12 PM
Hearing and Speech Agency

HLAA Meeting—Montgomery County Chapter
Mon, November 19, 6-8:30 PM
Davis Library

MDAD/PCRID Conference
Thurs, Novemebr 29—Sun, Dec 2
University of Maryland—Shady Grove



Please note the ODHH Office will be closed November 22-23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2007

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Meeting
Tues, December 4, 12-2 PM
Hearing and Speech Agency

ODHH Advisory Council Meeting
Thurs, December 6, 2-5 PM
TAM Office

Please note the ODHH Office will be closed December 25 for the Christmas Holiday.



In honor of Native America Heritage Month, ODHH would like to highlight the Intertribal Deaf Council (IHC). The Intertribal Deaf Council (IDC) is a non-profit organization of Deaf and Hard of Hearing American Indians whose goals are similar to many Native American organizations. IDC promotes the interests of its members by fostering and enhancing their cultural, historical and linguistic tribal traditions.

Some of the IHC's goals are:

- To preserve and carry out the traditions, languages and culture of First Nations deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing, regardless of obstacles
- To educate Native, non-Native and/or non-Deaf people about the culture and needs of Indigenous Deaf people
- To promote the work of American Indians, Alaska Natives and First Nations who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and hard of hearing

For more information, visit their site at: <http://deafnative.com/index.html>.